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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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AKSTAF AND VICINITY



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6 DECEMBER 1957

RR-GP/DP-4-57

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PHOTO INTELLIGENCE REPORT
AKSTAF AND VICINITY

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6 December 1957
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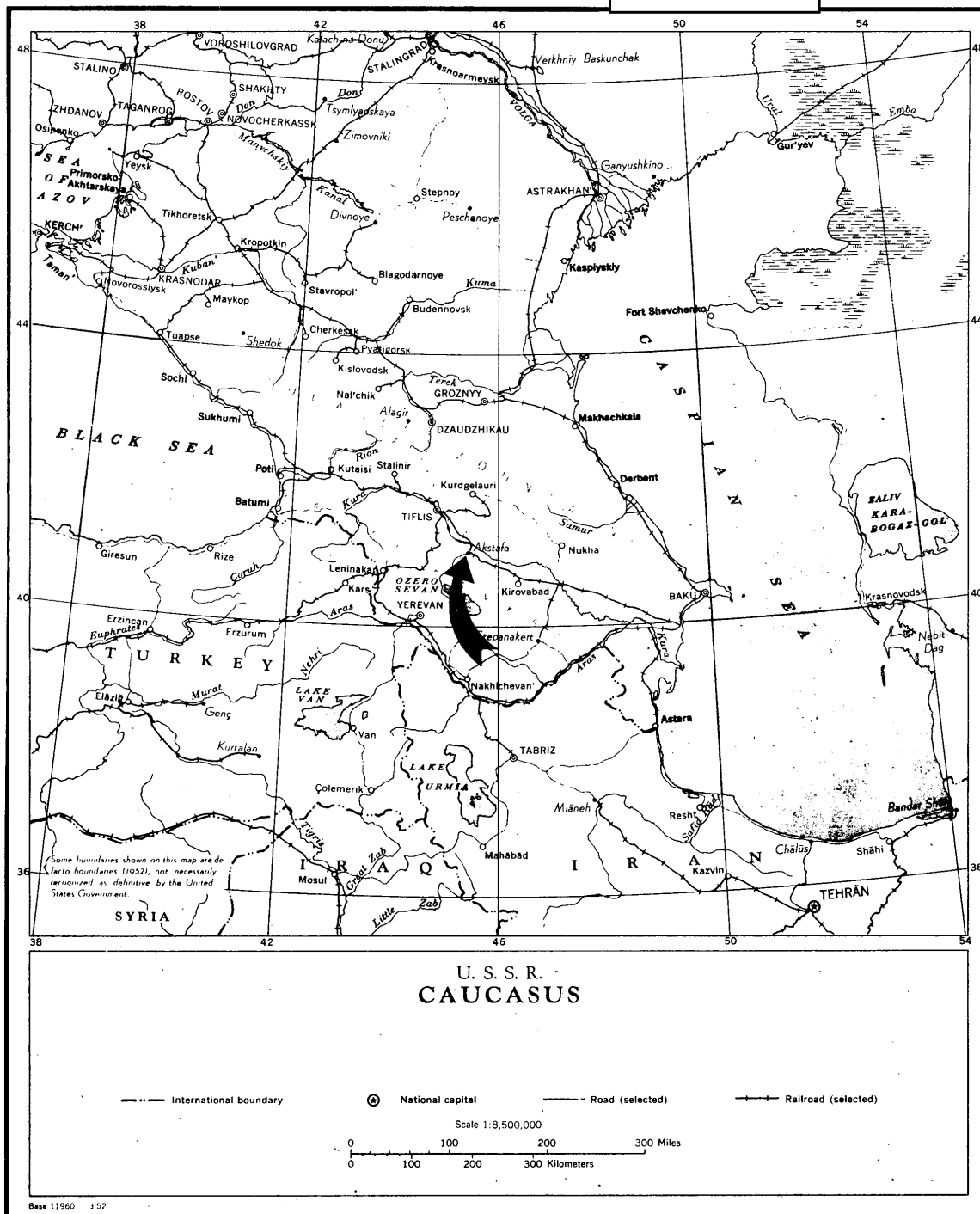
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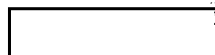
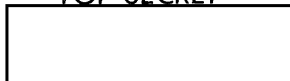
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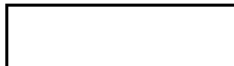
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PREFACE

This photo analysis of Akstafa and vicinity has been prepared by the Photo Intelligence Division of ORR and is based on ^{Small Format} aerial photography taken during the summer of 1957. A previous study of Akstafa was made in Report  2 Oct 1957; however, additional photo coverage over this area has made a more detailed analysis possible. A town plan of Akstafa, based on 1942 photography and revised from the 1957 coverage, has been prepared for this report.

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AKSTAF A. AND VICINITY

Akstafa is a small commercial and agricultural city situated astride the main transportation and communication lines between Tbilisi and Baku. Located in the Kura River valley approximately 40 miles south-east of Tbilisi, it is situated 3 miles east of the Akstafa River on slightly rolling terrain void of any forest cover. The city encompasses an area approximately one and one-half square miles.

The street pattern is generally irregular and except for main routes through the city, which appear to be hard-surfaced roads, all other streets seem to be unimproved. A new highway bypass, constructed since the area was photographed in 1942, borders the southwest section of the city and is part of the main highway connecting Akstafa with Kazakh to the southwest and Tauz to the southeast (see town plan, p. 7).

An electrified railroad, which extends from the Black Sea to the Caspian Sea, passes through the center of town, where there is a small classification yard with approximately seven sidings. This small yard is important because it services a double-track line from the southeast and only a single-track line from the northwest. A small probable railroad repair shop is located on the west side of the railroad yard, and a Y-shaped turnaround spur line circles the west side of town and services a possible granary.

Akstafa Airfield is located one mile west-northwest of Akstafa and just east of the Akstafa River. The airfield has a sod-surface landing area approximately 3,200 by 2,300 feet. It is a relatively unimportant training field and is possibly used for emergency landings. 1/

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Two parallel pipelines originating in Baku and terminating at Batumi reportedly pass in the vicinity of the city, but their alignment cannot be determined from the photography. A power-transmission line skirts the western edge of town, and probably follows the electrified railroad.

Agriculture is the main commercial activity in the city and surrounding communities. The major crops are probably cotton, wheat, and subsistence crops. The main commercial area is located on the west side of the railroad. In the southwest part of town there are seven large warehouse-type buildings approximately 280 by 140 feet and 11 smaller buildings located in a walled area. This area has been expanded since 1942, and is probably the reported cotton processing center. 2/ Just across the railroad there are approximately three warehouse-type buildings, probably used for agriculture storage. On the northern edge of town 26 warehouse-type buildings have been erected since 1942. Two probable POL storage tanks are located just south of the Y-shaped railroad turnaround.

The remainder of the town is largely residential, with each house having a small plot of land for subsistence crops. A new barracks or housing development has been built on the western edge of town, where there are approximately 24 buildings lined up in military manner with a rectangular street pattern. Adjacent to the buildings is a walled area containing six warehouses. This area appears to be used for either a motor pool with maintenance and repair facilities or a machine-tractor station. Just south of this is another walled area with four probable warehouses.

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References

1. Airfield and Seaplane Stations of the World, Vol 36



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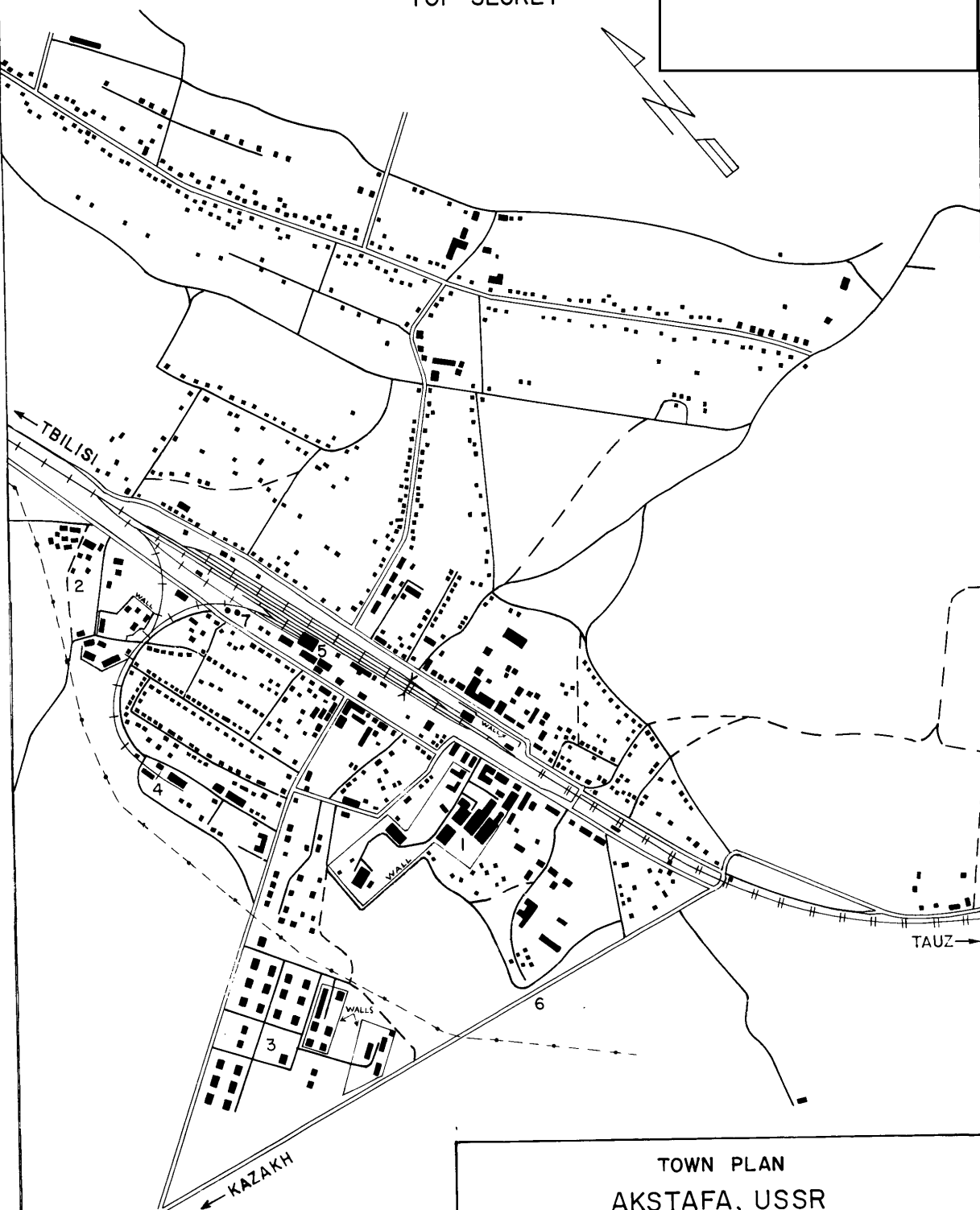
Graphic Supplement

Town Plan of Akstafa

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TOWN PLAN
 AKSTAF, USSR
 41° 07'N 45° 27' E

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